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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2016

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SUBJECT: TURKEY TO CONSIDER UN LIST OF UNIFIL REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. STATE 134133

[1](#)B. USUN 1545

[1](#)C. ANKARA 4753 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Ross Wilson, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador contacted MFA Deputy U/S Uzumcu on August 16 to urge Turkey's immediate decision on a contribution to an expanded UNIFIL force, as called for under UNSCR 1701. He emphasized the need for a quick, robust capability to supplement existing UN troops and asked Turkey to consider supporting the specific troop and equipment needs delineated by the UN (ref b). Uzumcu reaffirmed Turkey's willingness to consider a role in the Lebanon PKO and welcomed the specific list of UNIFIL requirements.

[1](#)2. (C) In a follow-up meeting that same day, DDG for the Middle East Torunlar took detailed notes on the list of personnel and equipment requested by the UN for the robust UNIFIL presence. Turkey, he confirmed, did participate in the recent DPKO force generation meetings in New York but did not specify a possible contribution. Torunlar acknowledged the urgency of a decision. Interagency discussions are underway, he said, but Turkey is not ready to provide any details on numbers or types of troops. FM Gul returns tonight from a one-day visit to Beirut for meetings with PM Siniora, Parliamentary Speaker Berri and FM Salloukh and will continue the PKO discussions. Torunlar did not expect that Turkey's UN Permrep would be prepared to offer anything concrete at the August 17 UN meeting but pledged his government's immediate consideration of the request.

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